

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9921

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

USMISSION NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13662

E.O. 11542: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, RP, VN

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE VIEWS ON ASEAN AND VIETNAM

REF: A) MANILA 13489; B) 13418

1. POL COUNS PAID CALL SEPTEMBER 7 ON MRS. ROSARIO MANALO, DEPUTY SEC GEN OF PHILIPPINE ASEAN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT, TO SEEK HER VIEWS ON SEP 1-2 PRE-UNGA ASEAN CONSULTATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS. MRS. MANALO RAPIDLY CONFIRMED IMPRESSION THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE DOMINATED BY DISCUSSION OF VIETNAM-ASEAN RELATIONS. OBSERVING THAT VIETNAMESE WERE "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH" SHE EXPRESSED MYSTIFICATION AT CONTRAST BETWEEN FRIENDLINESS OF PHAN HIEN MISSION IN JULY AND LAO/SRV REJECTION OF MALAYSIAN RESOLUTION ON ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZPFN) AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT ONE MONTH LATER. GRANTING
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POSSIBILITY THAT SRV MIGHT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN BILATERAL

RELATIONS AND POSTURE TOWARD ASEAN, SHE SAID THAT VIETNAMESE COULD HARDLY FAIL TO REALIZE THAT DIRECT ASSAULT ON BASIC ASEAN DOCTRINE WOULD CLEARLY OFFEND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. IMPACT WOULD BE ALL THE MORE DAMAGING SINCE MEMBERS HAD TAKEN FIRST STEP TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF ZPFN BY ADOPTING TREATY OF AMITY AT BALI SUMMIT, SHE SAID. DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED REVIEWED VARIETY OF THEORIES THAT HAVE BEEN FLOATED TO EXPLAIN SRV BEHAVIOR. MRS. MANALO MADE IT CLEAR THAT AT THIS POINT SHE THINKS SOVIET PRESSURE IS MOST LIKELY CAUSE. SHE ADDED THAT DFA IS "STUDYING" THIS POSSIBILITY.

2. MRS. MANALO SAID THAT DISCUSSION OF VIETNAM ISSUE WOULD SURELY ARISE AGAIN AT REGULAR MEETING OF ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS (UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL) TO BE HELD IN JAKARTA LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. POSSIBLE ASEAN "DIALOGUE" WITH SRV MIGHT BE DISCUSSED THEN, SHE SAID, BUT THUS FAR (CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS REPORTS) ASEAN HAS NOT MADE FIRM PLANS REGARDING EITHER DIALOGUE OR SRV ADMISSION TO UN.

3. IN PASSING, MRS. MANALO ASKED WHERE PLANS FOR US-ASEAN DIALOGUE HAD GONE. POL COUNS NOTED THAT WHILE US HEARTILY SUPPORT ASEAN, WE WOULD NOT NORMALLY TAKE INITIATIVES ON SUCH MATTERS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF LIKELIHOOD THAT US FORWARDNESS WOULD AGGRAVATE VIETNAMESE HOSTILITY TOWARD ASEAN.

4. ON OTHER UNGA ISSUES MANALO EXPLANATION ACCORDED WITH SINGAPORE VERSION (REF A) INCLUDING DECISION THAT ASEAN SHOULD STRIVE FOR MEDIATORY ROLE ON KORZLXBHBJKSTION AND ATTEMPT TO AVOID DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS ON UN'S ADDRESSING OPPOSING "BLACK" AND "WHITE" RESOLUTIONS.

5. ON REJECTION OF PHIL OBSERVER STATUS AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, MRS. MANALO AGAIN LAID BLAME ON YUGOSLAVIANS (WHO WERE GUNNING FOR ROMANIANS) AND ESPECIALLY INDIANS (WHO WERE AIMING AT PAKISTANIS). SHE SAID INDIAN ROLE PARTICULARLY INEXPLICABLE SINCE GOI HAD BEEN EAGERLY WOOING ASEAN ON OTHER FRONTS.

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6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MRS. MANALO TENDS TO BE HABITUALLY EXERCISED ABOUT ONE THING OR ANOTHER, WE WERE SURPRISED BY APPARENT DEPTH OF HER PERTURBATION ON ASEAN-VIETNAM ISSUE. SHE DID NOT REPEAT NOT MENTION PHILIPPINES ADVOCACY OF ASEAN CO-SPONSORSHIP FOR SRV ADMISSION TO UN REPORTED TO US BY SINGAPORE DELEGATE (REF A), NOR WOULD IT APPEAR FROM HER CURRENT ATTITUDE THAT

SHE PERSONALLY WOULD FAVOR SUCH A CONCILIATORY TACTIC.
SULLIVAN

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